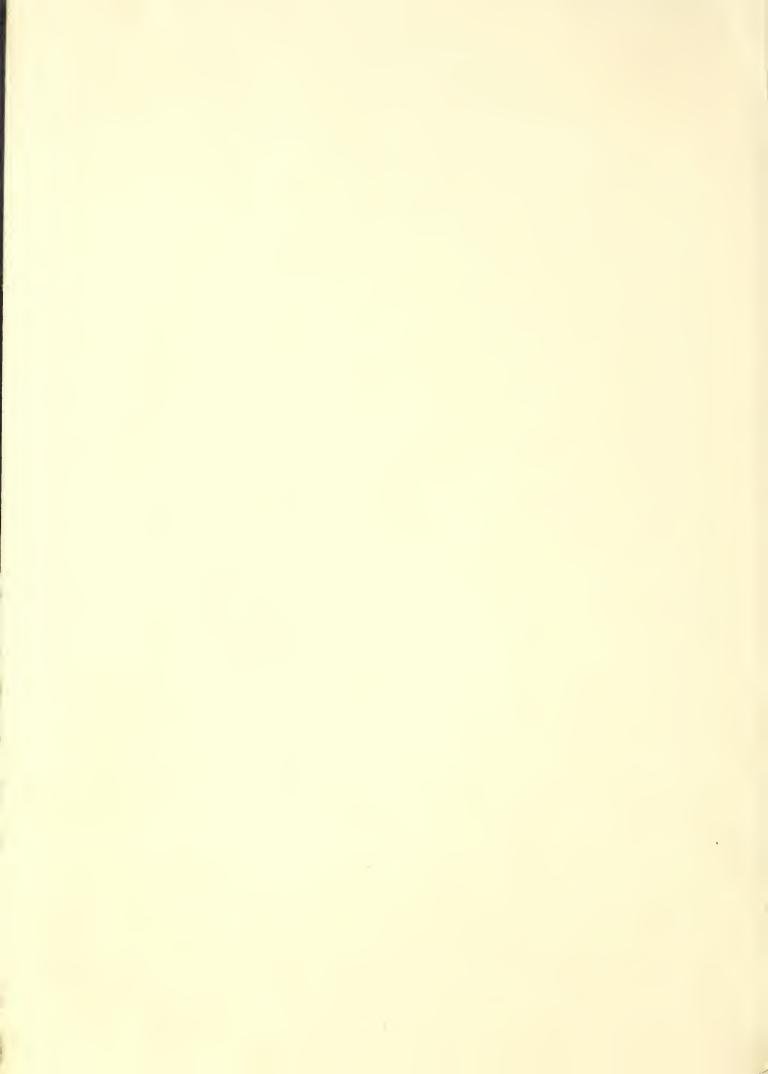
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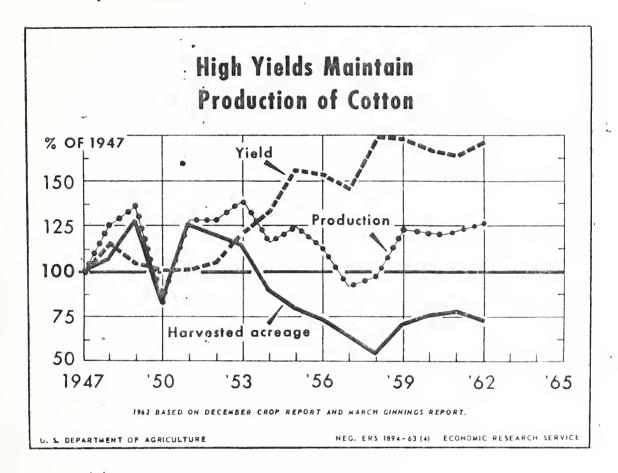
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POSTWAR CHANGES IN U. S. COTTON PRODUCTION

bу

James R. Donald and Charles H. Wittmann



Important changes have occurred in the components of U.S. cotton production since World War II. During the 1947-62 period, there was a sharp downward trend in harvested acreage. Production trended downward only slightly because of the sharp upward trend in yield per harvested acre. (See chart above.)

The decline in harvested acreage during the postwar period reflected, among other factors, Government programs designed to control or reduce cotton acreage. The primary program was the cotton acreage allotment program, which was in effect for 1950 and each year after 1954. The increase in average yield per harvested acre reflected many factors, including the increased use of fertilizer, chemicals, insecticides, irrigation, shifts in cotton acreage to higher yielding areas, and use of land better suited to cotton production.





The chart and legend appearing on the cover of this reprint were not contained in the original article but have been added to present a summary of postwar changes in cotton acreage, yield, and production.

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Postwar Changes in U. S. Cotton Production

BY

JAMES R. DONALD AND CHARLES H. WITTMANN*

Significant changes have occurred in U.S. cotton production since World War II. During this period, cotton acreage harvested has trended downward, yield per harvested acre has trended upward, production has declined slightly, and the pattern of production has shown some regional shifts. To illustrate, the 1947 crop of 11.9 million bales (500 pound gross weight bales) was produced on 21.3 million harvested acres at an average yield of 267 pounds per acre. Based on the December Crop Report, the 1962 crop of 14.7 million bales was produced on 15.5 million acres at an average yield of 455 pounds. At the same time, the percentage of the U. S. crop produced in the West increased from 10 percent in 1947 to 20 percent in 1962, while declining from 23 to 13 percent in the Southeast. The percent produced in other regions showed slight changes. 1/

The purpose of this analysis is to provide information on postwar changes in cotton acreage, yield, and production in the United States, in regions of the Cotton Belt, and in individual cotton-producing States. While no attempt was made to statistically measure the effect of various factors contributing to changes in acreage and yield, major factors related to these changes were identified.

The analysis covers the entire postwar period, 1947-61, and the 1954-61 period when acreage allotments were in effect. 2/. Changes or trends are measured by average yearly percentage of increase or decline. 3/ In turn, these rates of change are converted into average yearly unit changes; that is, acres, pounds or bales.

The data analyzed for acreage, yield, and production are for all kinds of cotton (upland and extra-long staple). However, harvested acreage of extra-long staple cotton has generally averaged less than 0.5 percent of total harvested acreage. The difference in yield per acre for all kinds of cotton has averaged less than a pound more than yield for upland cotton alone.

CHANGES IN HARVESTED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, 1947-61

During 1947-61, U. S. cotton acreage harvested trended downward, but it showed wide year to-year variations. Harvested acreage was at a high of 27.4 million acres in 1949 and at a low of 11.8 million in 1958. The rate of decline in harvested acreage during the period was 4.4 percent--equivalent to 858,000 acres per year. (See tables 9 and 10 and figure 2.)

Yield per harvested acre showed an upward trend during most of the 1947-61 period, increasing from 267 pounds per acre in 1947 to a high of 466 in 1958. Yield increased at a yearly rate of 4.5 percent-equivalent to 16 pounds per year. (See tables 11 and 10 and figure 3.)

The decline in harvested acreage more than offset the increase in yield during 1947-61. As a result, U. S. production declined slightly—at a yearly rate of 0.2 percent or about 23,000 bales per year. (See tables 12 and 10 and figure 4.)

1/ States included in each region are as follows:

West : California, Arizona, New Mexico,

: and Nevada.

Southwest: Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas

Delta : Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Illinois,

and Kentucky

Southeast: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

* Donald and Wittmann are Analytical Statisticians with the Economic and Statistical Analysis Division, ERS.

2/ For an analysis of acreage and yield trends during earlier periods, see Rafler, Doris A., and Wittmann, Charles H., "Cotton Acreage and Yield, 1937-57," Cotton Situation, CS-179, November 1958, pp. 26 36.

3/ The relative nature of the trend factors makes it possible to compare directly the components of cotton production even though the original units are measured in acres, pounds, and bales. Thus, for the data plotted in the figures, equal percentage variations are represented by equal vertical distances. The average percentage change in represented by a straight line on ratio scale.



During 1947-61, harvested acreage declined in each geographical region of the Cotton Belt. Declines ranged from 0.1 percent or 2,000 acres per year in the West to 6.5 percent or 242,000 acres per year in the Southeast. Yield per harvested acre increased in each region- 33 pounds per year in the West, 13 pounds in both the South west and Delta, and 9 pounds in the Southeast. Production increased in both the West and Southwest, while it declined in the Southeast and Delta. (See table 10;)

In 1947-61, harvested acreage declined in all States, with the exception of Arizona. Yield per acre increased in each State ranging from 6.3 percent or 13 pounds in Oklahoma to 1.1 percent or 1 pounds in North Carolina. The largest gain in yield per acre, in terms of actual pounds, was recorded in Arizona--35 pounds followed by 34 pounds in California. Production increased at the fastest rate in Arizona--4.4 percent per year or 30,000 bales -and declined at the sharpest rate in North Carolina--5.3 percent or 21,000 bales per year. (See table 10 and figure 7.)

In figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, data by regions and States are plotted for harvested acreage, yield, and production, respectively. For both regions and States, data are plotted in sequence to conform to the rate of change during 1954-61.

CHANGES IN ACREAGE ALLOTTED AND PLANTED, 1954-61

U.S. acreage allotted for all kinds of cotton trended downward during 1954-61, dropping from a high of 21.4 million acres in 1954 to a low of 17.4 million in 1959. (See table 13.)

The average rate of decline in allotted acreage time 1954 of was 1.5 percent per year, equivalent (2.0,000 acres annually. By region, allottments in crossed slightly in the West and declined in other regions. The sharpest annual rate of decline was in the Southeast—2.5 percent, equivalent to 84,000 acres per year. The sharpest rate of decline in State allotments was in Oklahoma—3.0 percent per year—followed by Georgia with a decline of 2.8 percent per year. (See table 14.)

Acreage planted to cotton declined faster than allotted acreage during 1954-61, dropping from 20.1 million acres in 1954 to a low of 12.4 million in 1958 when Acreage and Conservation Reserve programs were in effect. The rate of decline was 2.8 percent or 471,000 acres per year compared with 1.5 percent decline in allotted acreage. This sharper decline in planted acreage reflects increased underplanting of acreage allotments in some regions and States. (See table 14.)

Planted acreage declined in each region, with the exception of the West. The sharpest decline was 5.4 per cent or 150,000 acres per year in the Southeast, followed by 2.8 percent or 214,000 acres in the Southwest. The State showing the sharpest decline was Georgia - 6.7 per cent per year, equivalent to 50,000 acres, (See table 14.)

Rates of change for 1954-61 and 1954-62 in acreage allotted and planted for the entire United States, for regions and for States, are shown in table 14.

In 1954-61, as well as in 1954-62, the sharper decline in acreage planted than in acreage allotted reflects increased underplanting of cotton. In 1955, about 99 percent of the allotted acreage was planted compared with 70 percent in 1958 and an average of 90.5 percent in 1959-62. Underplanting, as a percent of allotments, averaged highest in the Southeast and lowest in the West, where plantings were near 100 percent of allotments, except in 1957-58. Although over 95 percent of cotton allotments were planted in the South east in 1955-56, this percentage fell to 49 percent in 1958 and averaged 81 percent during 1959-62. (See table 13.)

By States, the largest underplanting of cotton was in Georgia. An average of 93 percent of allotments was planted during 1954-56. This average fell to 43 percent in 1958 and averaged about 77 percent for 1959-62. (See table 13.)

CHANGES IN HARVESTED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, 1954-61

During 1954-61, when acreage allotments were in effect, the year-to-year variation inharvested acreage was not as extreme as in earlier years. However, acreage trended downward at a rate of 2.8 percent annually-equivalent to 436,000 acres per year. Production trended upward as increasing yields more than offset the decline in acreage. The 0.6 percent annual increase in production was equivalent to 76,000 bales per year, while the 3.0-percent increase in yield was equivalent to 13 pounds per acre annually. (See table 10 and figure 3.)

During 1954-61, harvested acreage trended downward in each region, except in the West where it showed a slight increase. The sharpest rate of decline was recorded in the Southeast-5.6 percent or 151,000 acres per year. Production increased in the West and Southwest, while declining in the Southeast and Delta. The sharpest rate of production increase was in the Southwest-3.1 percent or 136,000 bales per year. The sharpest yearly



decline was in the Southeast--4.4 percent or 89,000 bales per year. Yield per acre increased in each region, ranging from a rate of 5.1 percent in the Southwest to 1.0 percent in the Southeast. The largest actual average increase in yield was in the West, 16 pounds per acre per year, and the smallest in the Southeast, 3 pounds. (See table 10 and figure 3.)

During 1954-61, harvested acreage trended downward in all States except Arizona, California, and New Mexico. Cotton production trended downward in 8 of the 14 major producing States. The sharpest annual average rate of decline, 5.0 percent, was in North Carolina, and the sharpest increase, 5.0 percent, was in California. Yields increased in 12 of the 14 States. The largest actual annual increase was 33 pounds per acre in California. The sharpest annual increase, on a percentage basis, was 7.9 percent in Oklahoma. (See table 10 and figure 6.)

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POSTWAR CHANGES IN ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

The downward trend in cotton acreage harvested in the United States during 1947-61 reflected, among other factors, Government programs designed to control or reduce cotton acreage. The primary program was the cotton acreage allotment program, which was in effect for 1950 and during 1954-61.

Other programs, which have special significance in contributing to differences in acreage trends in the various regions and States, include the Acreage Reserve

program, in effect for 1956-58, and the Conservation Reserve program, in effect during 1956-61. Participation in these programs was particularly heavy in the South eastern States. Also, the "Choice" programs in effect during 1959 and 1960 resulted in temporary shifts in cotton acreage. Producers in the Far West generally chose a program which permitted planting in excess of regular acreage allotments, while Eastern producers generally planted their regular acreage allotments.

Producer alternatives to cotton production also contributed to the downward trend in harvested acreage during the postwar period, especially during the latter part of the period. These alternatives, both on and off the farm, contributed to large underplanting of cotton acreage, particulary in the Southeastern States.

The increase in the U.S. average yieldper harvested acre in the postwar period reflected many factors, including the increased use of fertilizer, chemicals, insecticides, irrigation, shifts in cotton acreage to higher yielding areas, and use of land better suited to cotton production. Factors which contributed to regional differences in yield included differences in adoption of improved cultural practices and of special practices. For example, in the Far West where yields are more than double the national average, insects were controlled to a large extent, extensive acreage was irrigated, and considerable acreage was "skip-row" planted during the latter part of the postwar period.

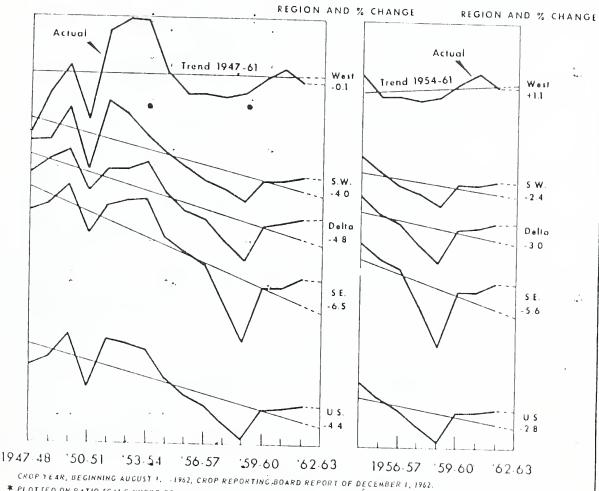
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The next issue of the Cotton Situation is scheduled for release June 7, 1963.



HARVESTED ACREAGE OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Average Annual Percentage Change*, By Regions A; U. S.



* PLOTTEO ON RATIO SCALE WHERE EQUAL VERTICAL DISTANCES REPRESENT EQUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES.

A WEST INCLUDES CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, AND NEVADA. SOUTHWEST INCLUDES TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, AND KANSAS. OELTA INCLUOES MISSOURI, ARKANS#S, TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ILLINOIS, AND KENTUCKY. SOUTHEAST INCLUDES VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, GFORGIA, FLORIDA, AND ALABAMA.

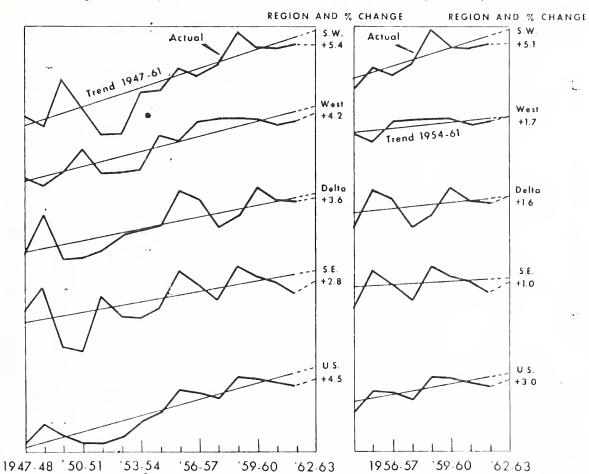
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NEG. 1784-63(2) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



YIELD OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Average Annual Percentage Change*, By Regions^, U. S



CROP YEAR, BEGINNING AUGUST 1. 1962, CROP REPORTING BOARD REPORT OF DECEMBER 1, 1962.

* PLOTTEO ON RATIO SCALE WHERE EQUAL VERTICAL DISTAÑCES REPRESENT EQUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGES.

A WEST INCLUDES CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, MIO NEVADA. SOUTHWEST INCLUDES TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, AND KANSAS. OELTA INCLUDES MISSOURI, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ILLINOIS, AND KENTUCKY. SOUTHEAST INCLUDES VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, FLORIDA, AND ALABAMA.

U S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

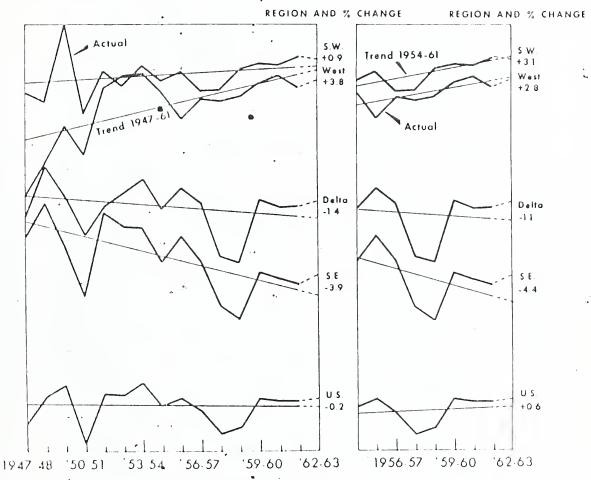
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PRODUCTION OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Average Annual Percentage Change*, By Regions A. U. S.



CROP YEAR, RECINNING AUGUST 1. 1962, CHOP REPORTING BOARD PEPORT OF DECEMBER 1, 1962.

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MARCH 1963

HARVESTED ACREAGE OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Average Annual Percentage Change *, By States, U. S.

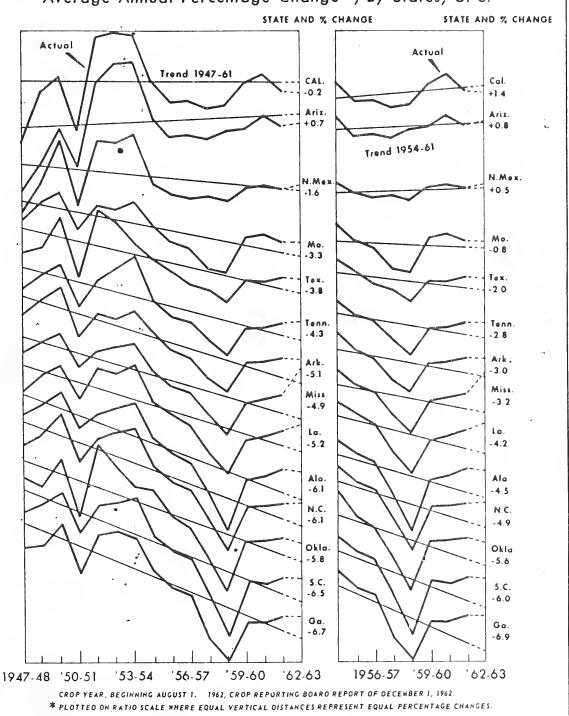


FIGURE 5

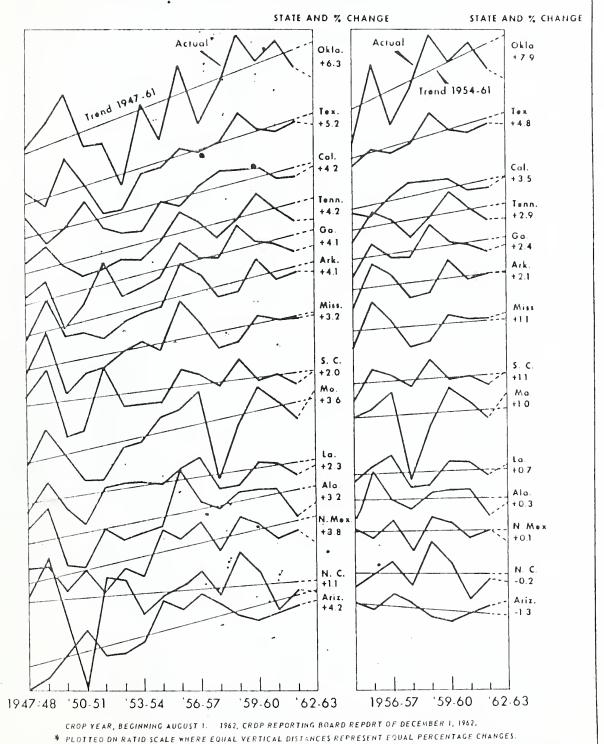
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YIELD OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Average Annual Percentage Change*, By States, U. S.



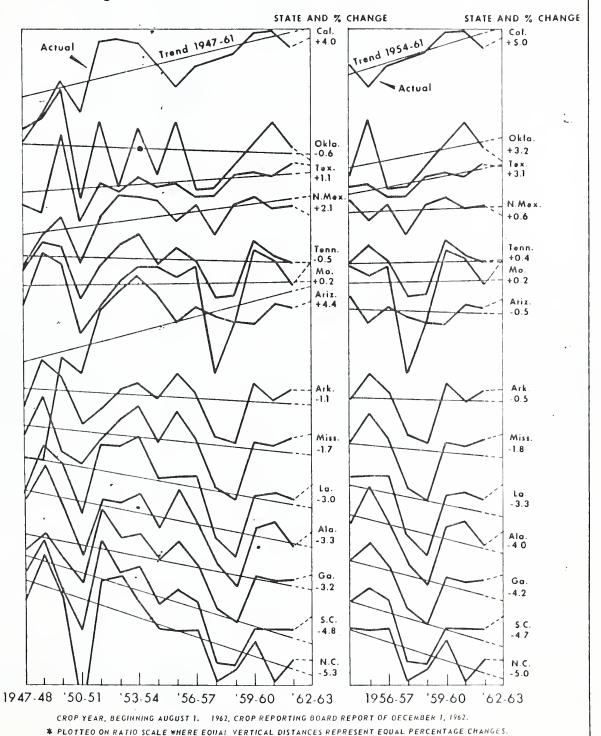
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PRODUCTION OF COTTON (ALL KINDS)

Àverage Annual Percentage Change*, By States, U. S.



U S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE .

NEG. 1787-63(2) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



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1/ Regions include the following adultional : tates: Hest: Hevada.

Southwest: Namses.

Delta: Illinois and Kentucky.

Southeast: Virginia and Florida.

Commilled from reports of Orog Reporting Follow, Enantonical Reporting Service.



Table 10.--Cotton: Average annual rates of change in acreage harvested, yield, and production, States and regions, 1947-61 and 1954-61

	:	Ave	rage rela	ative cha	ınge		: :						
Area	1947-61			1954–61		1947-61			:	1954-61			
	Acreage	Yield per acre	:Produc-	Acreage	Yield per acre	: :Produc- : tion	Acreage	Yield per acre	: :Produc- : tion	Acreage	Yield per aere	: :Produc- : tion	
% **	Percent	Pcrcent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 bales 2/	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 bales 2/	
	West									1			
Arizona California New Mexico	: 0.7 : -0.2 : -1.6	4.2 4.2 3.8	4.4 4.0 2.1	0.8	-1.3 3.5 0.1	-0.5 5.0 0.6	3 -2 -4	35 34 23	30 58 6	3 11 1	-13 33 1	-4 79 2	
	Southwest												
Oklahoma Texas	: -5.8 : -3.8	6.3 5.2	-0.6	-5.6 -2.0	7•9 4•8	3.2 3.1	-53 -301	13 13	-2 43	-38 -132	20 15	11 125	
	:					D	elta						
Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Missouri Tennessee	: -5.1 : -5.2 : -4.9 : -3.3 : -4.3	4.1 2.3 3.2 3.6 4.2	-1.1 -3.0 -1.7 0.2 -0.5	-3.0 -4.2 -3.2 -0.8 -2.8	2.1 0.7 1.1 1.0 2.9	-0.5 -3.3 -1.8 0.2 0.4	87 36 97 15 29	17 9 13 15 18	-15 -17 -28 1 -3	-40 -22 -49 -3 15	9 3 5 5 14	-7 -16 -27 1 2	
	Southeast												
		3.2 4.1 1.1 .2.0	-3.3 -3.2 -5.3 -4.8	-4.5 -6.9 -4.9 -6.0	0.3 2.4 -0.2 1.1	-4.0 -4.2 -5.0 -4.7	-75 -70 -35 -55	10 12 14 6	-27 -19 -21 -27	-41 -51 -21 -37	1 8 -1 4	-29 -23 -15 -21	
	Region averages 3/												
West Southwest Delta Southeast	: -0.1 : -14.0 : -14.8 : -6.5	4.2 5.4 3.6 2.8	.3.8 .0.9 -1.4 -3.9	1.1 -2.4 -3.0 -5.6	1•7 5.1 1.6 1.0	2.8 3.1 -1.1 -4.4	-2 -354 -265 -242	33 13 13	92 40 -62 -95	15 -171 -130 -151	16 15 8 3	74 136 -48 -89	
U.S. average	: 4.4	4.5	0.2	-2.8	3.0	0.6	-858	16.	- 23	-436	13	76	

 $[\]underline{1}$ / Corresponding to relative change.

Computed from reports of Crop Reporting Board, Statistical Reporting Service.

^{2/} Bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

³/ Includes in addition to States listed above: Nevada in the West; Kansas in the Southwest; Illinois and Kentucky in the Delta; and Florida and Virginia in the Southeast.

regions, 1947 to date

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Regions include the following autitional States: 7

West: Merada.

Board, Ctatistical Reporting Serrice. Compiled from reports of Crop Reportant



Table 12. -- Production of catton, all kinds, United States, by States and regions, 1947 to date

u.s.	total		11,860 14,877 16,128	10,014 15,149 15,139 16,465 13,697	14,721 13,310 10,964 11,512 14,558	14,272 14,318 14,723
ls 1/	Delta S.E.		4,192 2,716 6,282.3,536 4,878.2,512	3,518 1,669 4,467 3,304 5,068 2,901 5,646 2,899 4,507 2,240	5,313 2,705 4,629 2,227 3,010 1,520 2,883 1,364 4,784 2,004	4,448 1,934 1,497 1,843 1,729 1,978
Region totals	, S.W.		3,767 3,527 6,650	3,188 4,536 4,072 4,754 4,234	4,502 3,876 3,895 4,621 4,797	4,804 5,155 5,010
Reg	West		1,185 2,088	1,639 2,842 3,098 3,166 2,716	2,201 2,578 2,539 2,644 2,973	3,086 2,823 3,006
	S C		651 871 554	405 871 657 690 501	572 513 344 299 417	414 412 450
ည ပ ပ	N.C.		452 678 466	181 181 542 569 444 364	351 259 256 322	232 278 275
Southeast	. Ga.		653 751 604	490 935 731 752 612	701 579 396 352 521	505 512 535
	Ala.	2	931 1,197 851	900 900 77 72 72 83	1,045 750 530 439 718	756 617 695
• •• ••	Tenn.	bales	519 669 633	109 534 638 702 548	623 552 415 419 660	583 554 560
	Mo	Thousand	311 506 462	254 309 4449 450	410 448 179 275 508	4,72 377 465
Delta	Miss	Th	1,569 2,353 1,487	1,332 1,608 1,906 2,129 1,571	2,023 1,609 1,081 961 1,568	1,542 1,625 1,700
А	La.		505 756 650	426 760 756 806 572	582 581 548 297 492	501 479 545
	Ark.		1,276 1,982 1,632	,090 ,249 ,366 ,1,548	1,663 1,426 981 925 1,544	1,339 1,456 1,450
Southwest :	Texas		3,437	2,946 4,074 3,808 4,317 3,941:	4,039 3,615 3,632 4,308 4,16	4,346 4,786 4,680
Sout	okla.		330 374 610	242 462 437 437 293	463 261 313 381	458 369 330
	N. Mex.		179 236 276	187 273 330 327 316	286 301 323 323	291 300 275
West	z. Calif.		234 772 328 968 543 1,268	474 978 803 1,765 948 1,818 070 1,768 911 1,487.	728 1,205 829 1,446 763 1,537 734 1,604 715 1,929	849 1,939 828 1,689 885 1,840
	Ari		** ** ** **			
	Year		1947 1948 1949	1950 1951 1952 1953 1954	1955 1956 1957 1958 1959	1960 1961 1962

1/ Regions include the following additional States:

. Southwest: Kansas. Delta: Illinois and Kentucky. Southeast: Virginia and Florida. Bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

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Compiled from reports of Crop Reporting Board, Statistical Reporting Service.



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Compiled from Agriculturel Stabilization and Conserration 8 wyice and Groy Beyorting Foard date.



Table 14.--Cotton: Average annual rate of change in acreage allotments and planted, States and regions, 1954-61 and 1954-62

•	: Ave	erage rela	ative change		Average unit change 1/						
Area	1954–61		1954-62		1954	-61	1954-62				
	: Allotments:	Planted	: :Allotments :		: Allotments:	Planted	:Allotments:	Planted			
-	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres			
West											
Arizona California New Mexico	1.0 1.0 0.2	0.5 1.4 0.6	0.9 0.4 0.3	0.7 1.0 0.8	4 8 0	2 11 1	1 ₆ 1 ₄ 1	3 8 2			
Southwest .	:	•	·								
Oklahoma Texas •	: -3.0 : -1.2	-5.7 -2.4	-2.3 -0.8	-4.3 -1.8	-26 -91 ₊	-41 -173	-20 -61	-31 -124			
Delta	:										
Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Missouri Tennessee	: -2.1 : -2.0 : -1.8 : -0.4 : -1.0	-2.7 -3.3 -2.8 -0.9 -2.6	-1.6 -1.4 -1.3 -0.4 -0.7	-1.8 -2.0 -1.8 -0.6 -1.7	-31 -13 -32 -1 -6	-38 -19 -10 -3 -15	-24 -9 -03 -2 -4	-25 -11 -30 -3 -9			
Southeast	:										
Alabama Georgia North Carolina South Carolina	-2.6 -2.8 -2.2 -2.1	-4.3 -6.7 -4.8 -5.9	-1.9 -2.1 -1.6 -1.5	-2.9 -4.9 -3.5 -4.4	-28 -27 -12 -16	-39 -50 -21 -3 <i>(</i>	-21 -25 -8 -11	-27 -37 15 -27			
Region averages 2/						1					
West Sonthwest Delta Southeast	0.9 -1.4 -1.7 -2.5	1.0 -2.8 -2.7 -5.1	0.6 -1.0 -1.3 -1.8	0.) -2.0 -1.7 -3.9	13 -120 -54 -34	1) -214 -111 -150	8 -32 -01 -01	12 -455 -78 -108			
U.S. average 2/	: -1.5	-2.8	-1.1.	-2.0	- 276	-471	-194	-329			

^{1/} Corresponding to relative change.

^{2/} Includes in addition to States listed above: Nevada in the West; Kansas in the Southwest; Illinois and Kentucky in the Delta; and Florida and Virginia in the Southeast.

